## Admiration

## by Lily Aoibheann

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Summary: Marco thinks about his strange friendship with Cassie and

her relationship with Jake. Marco's POV.

## Admiration

> <meta name="GENERATOR"> admiration Title: Admiration

>Author: Lily <br/>
-mail: lilith chan@xoommail.com

>Rating: PG maybe. <br/> <br/>br>Distribution: Sure. Just tell me where it's going.

>Summary: Marco thinks about his strange friendship with Cassie and her <br/> <br/> relationship with Jake. Marco's POV.

>Feedback: Please? <br/>
<br/>
Author's Notes: This is my reaction to all that Marco/Cassie banter

>that's been in recent books. JC, slight T/R with M/C overtones. If you

>quys like this, I'll write you a real JC fic one of these days.

It's a cold Saturday night and we're having a meeting in Cassie's barn.

>Jake is leaning up against the doors, his arms folded, looking to all <br/>br>the world like a young general. Ax is in human morph, munching on some

>unnaturally colored snack food. Rachel's looking at her hair, picking <br/> through the strands. Bird-Boy is perched overhead in the rafters. His

>eyes focus on Rachel from time to time. Doesn't he realize there's no <br/>br>hope there? Rachel can't deal with him wanting to stay a hawk, and

>that's the end of that.

And then there's Cassie. Hair held together by a few decorated bobbie

>pins, clothes covered in animal hair and dirt as she desperately tries <br/>br>to get a crow to take it's pill. She's been working in the barn almost

>all day and her skin shines with the slight gleam of sweat. She's
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
chr>absolutely beautiful.

I love her. Not quite in that sappy-mushy way that Jake loves her, what

>I feel for her is admiration. I remember the way her hands felt, warm <br/> <br/> dr>against my face as she brought me out of bug morph that one time.

>Nothing terrifies me more then ending up like Tobias, trapped in a body <br/> <br/> br>not my own. I was so scared; what if I had been stuck that way? But I

>listened to her voice and in moments I was me again. Marco the human. I <br/>br>hugged her and cried like a baby, my fear and panic giving way to joy<br/>>and relief.

Without her I would have stayed like that forever.

When my dad was talking about getting remarried and I was having all

>that trouble morphing, Cassie came over to see how I was doing. She knew <br/> <br/>that I had screwed up another morph, that I was barely holding it

>together. Cassie noticed when no one else did. Not even Jake, my best <br/> tor>friend. She kept that secret for me. Defended me later when Jake

>yelled at me...

This isn't Camelot. Cassie's no Guenevere, Jake's no King Arthur, and

>I'm certainly no Lancelot. I'm not going to try to steal her away from <br/>br>him. Cassie and I laugh. We flirt. We fight. But we're just friends. And

>that's all we'll ever be.

Meeting adjourned. Tobias and Ax head out into the forest behind the

>barn. Rachel heads out through the barn doors. I go to follow her, but <br/>br>stop and turn just outside the doorway. Jake and Cassie are standing

>close to each other, whispering quietly and smiling. Jake threads
his <br/>br>hands into her hair, bends down and kisses her, softly,
sweetly. In that

>moment the world stands still for them.

He loves her, worships her, and would die if anything happened to her.

I know how you feel Jake. I know how you feel.

End file.